

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS

United States Department of Agriculture

Release - Immediate

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WILD DUCK SELLERS JAILED

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Pleading guilty in Federal Court at Little Rock, Ark., to selling wild ducks contrary to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, three men were sentenced to jail and fined yesterday (November 11) by Judge Thomas C. Trimble. The violators were: Jake Ballot of Slovac Town, sentenced to 60 days in jail and fined \$50; Pete Pitonyak, also of Slovac Town, 30 days and \$25; and Kelly Capps, residing near Almyra, 10 days and \$10.

These are the last of a group of cases involving Federal and State game law offenses and resulting from undercover investigations by U. S. Biological Survey agents in the tri-state area of Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi. All three State game departments, the Tri-State Game and Fish Association, and the American Wildlife Institute cooperated with the Biological Survey.

In Federal court, fines in 29 cases aggregated \$1353, and in one other case the offender was sentenced to 40 days in jail. Jail sentences were also imposed in four cases in which fines were assessed--one of 60 days, two of 30 days each, and one of 10 days. In State courts, fines aggregating \$1195 were assessed in 24 cases, one defendant was placed on probation, and one found not guilty.

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